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29 December 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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29 December 1962

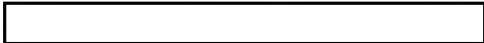

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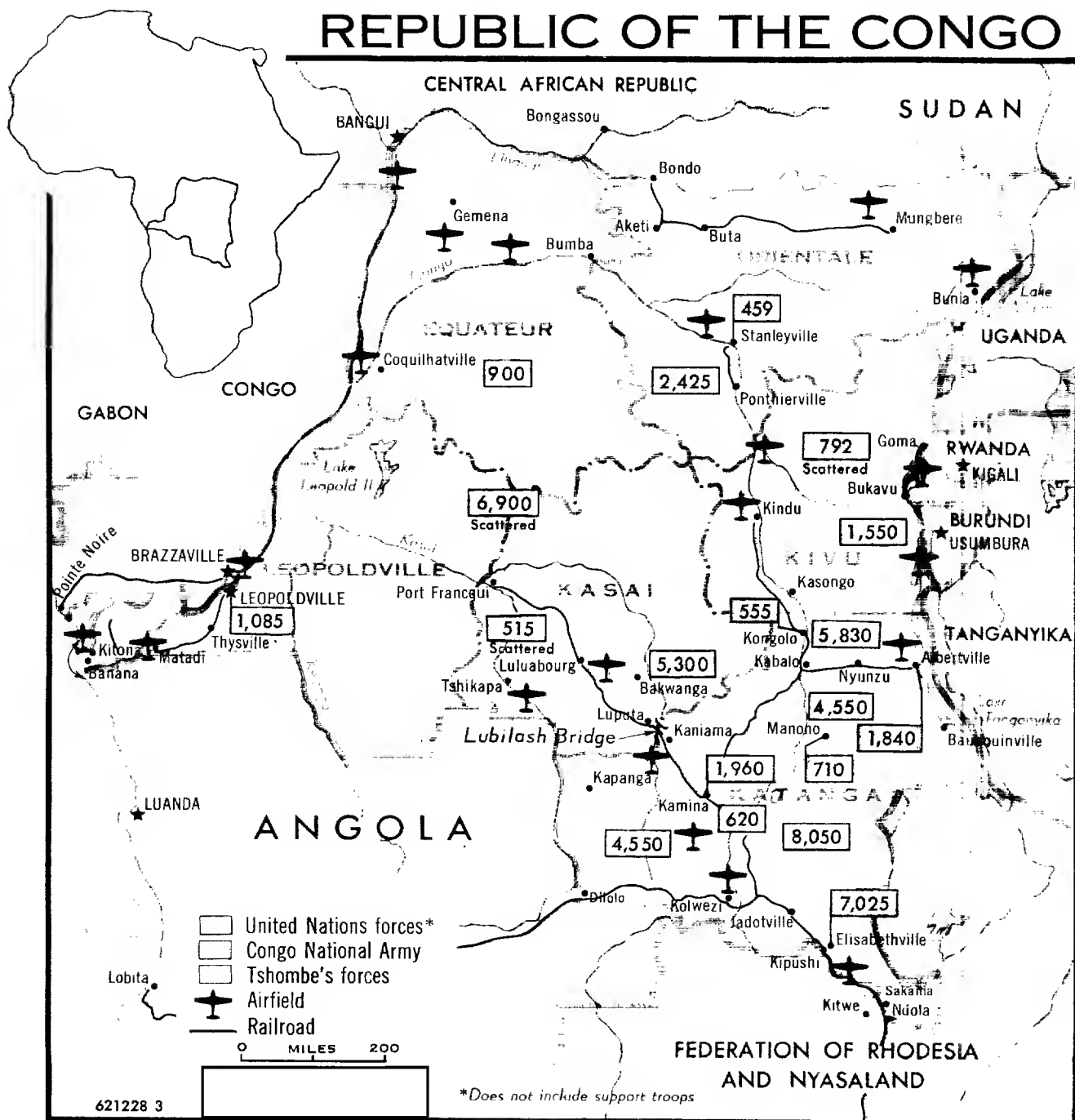


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DAILY BRIEF

*Congo: (Information as of 0400 EST) UN forces moved to clear Katangan roadblocks around Elisabethville and to extend their control of the city.

The UN action followed extended but unsuccessful efforts to get Tshombé to remove these roadblocks and halt firing by Katangan forces. US Consul Dean in Elisabethville reports that UN forces now have the city well in hand and that the Katangan forces have been pushed back all around the city's perimeter. UN forces have taken control of key points in the Karavia suburb where Katangan military headquarters and the city's water supply are located. Radio Katanga also is in UN hands.

UN forces apparently plan moves soon against the mining centers of Jadotville, Kolwezi, and Kipushi. Fighting is reported along the roads to Jadotville and Kipushi, and the UN Command has ordered an airstrike--using five Swedish J-29 jets--against Kolwezi airfield.

UN forces, however, moved too slowly to surround Tshombé's palace to prevent his escape. The Katangan leader has apparently fled to Kipushi where his ministers fled when the fighting began. Katangan

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Ministers in Kipushi are [] trying to reorganize the government and to direct further resistance from there.

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[] UN Congo chief Gardiner in Leopoldville told US officials he was satisfied that the initiative in the fighting had been entirely with the Katangan forces which had opened fire on 27 December on UN positions at many points. Gardiner said the UN will continue military action as long as Tshombé continues to resist. []
(Map)

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USSR-UAR: [The Soviet-Egyptian program to set up a missile-equipped air defense system in the UAR appears to have reached an advanced stage.]

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[At least [] transporters for SA-2 surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) were unloaded from a Soviet ship in Alexandria in mid-December. This strongly suggests that construction of firing sites is nearly finished and that the air defense system may become operational by early 1963. None of the sites has been located thus far, however.]

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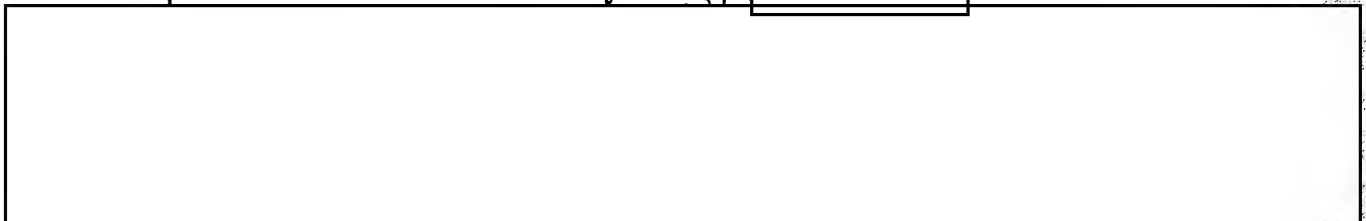


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[The Soviet Union installed a SAM training site south of Cairo earlier this year for instructing Egyptian military personnel in the operation and maintenance of the SA-2 system.] []

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DAILY BRIEF

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Venezuela: Criticism of the new US petroleum import program continues to mount in Venezuela.

Lead stories in all newspapers this week echo Minister of Mines Perez' objections to the new program as "prejudicial" to Venezuela, and call for a "re-examination of relations with the US." Recent statements by President Betancourt's Democratic Action Party, the influential "Pro-Venezuela" business group, and the Venezuelan Labor Confederation make similar points.

According to the US Embassy, the criticism probably is due primarily to offended national pride over the belief that there was no prior consultation, rather than to the effect of the new import restrictions. Venezuelan petroleum exports to the US are expected to remain at the present level or increase slightly during the first half of 1963. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

Algeria: [The Ben Bella government appears increasingly anxious to improve relations with France and the US. Ben Bella recently compared the businesslike manner in which American food shipments are reaching Algeria to the USSR's insistence on reception committees and other fanfare for each arriving ship. The Algerian foreign minister has told Ambassador Porter that he and Ben Bella consider Algerian-US relations so important that they wish to handle all aspects personally. French officials state that they are pleased over improved cooperation from Algerians.]

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Peru: The Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CTP) reportedly plans a nationwide wave of strikes for January. Each affiliated union is to prepare a separate pretext for its own strike to prevent the government from calling the strike wave a political move. The CTP is dominated by the left-wing but anti-Communist APRA, which presumably is undertaking the strikes primarily for political motives.

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